blacknewsdigest

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Office of Information,
Publications and Reports
Washington, D.C.
20210

WEEK OF OCTOBER 21, 1974

IN THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL WOULD
PROTECT WORKERS, BRENNAN SAYS

EMPLOYEE SELECTION REGULATIONS BY FEDERAL
CONTRACTORS EXPLAINED IN NEW PUBLICATION

MINIMUM WAGE COVERAGE OF DOMESTIC WORKERS

OSHA PROPOSES SAFETY, HEALTH
RULES FOR JOB-RELATED HOUSING

DEMAND HIGH FOR PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANTS

5,399 JOB SAFETY, HEALTH INSPECTIONS
BY FEDERAL AGENCY IN JULY

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX -- SEPTEMBER 1974

VIRGINIA KNAUER'S 'DEAR CONSUMER' COLUMN

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

MIAMI UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The Local Angle:

REGIONAL INFORMATION OFFICES

The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service--or have a direct news inquiry--you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Assistant Regional Directors for Information and the states in their regions:

Region I	**Paul F. Neal**	
	Room E-308	
Connecticut	**JFK Federal Bldg.**	
Maine	Boston, Mass. 02203	
Massachusetts	617-223-6767	
New Hampshire		
Rhode Island		
Vermont		
Region II	**Edward I. Weintraub**	
	Room 3510	
	1515 Broadway	
New Jersey	New York, N.Y. 10036	
New York	212-971-5477	
Puerto Rico		
Virgin Islands		
Region III	**John P. Hord**	
	14280 Gateway Bldg.	
	3535 Market St.	
Delaware	Philadelphia, Pa. 19104	
District of Columbia	215-597-1139	
Maryland		
Pennsylvania		
Virginia		
West Virginia		
Region IV	**William I. Allgood**	
	Room 317	
	1371 Peachtree St., N.E.	
Alabama	Atlanta, Ga. 30309	
Florida	404-526-5495	
Georgia		
Mississippi		
North Carolina		
South Carolina		
Tennessee		
Kentucky		
Region V	**John D. Mellott**	
	12th Floor	
	300 S. Wacker Drive	
Illinois	Chicago, Ill. 60606	
Indiana	312-353-6976	
Michigan		
Minnesota		
Ohio		
Wisconsin		
Region VI	**Les Gaddie**	
	Federal Bldg. &	
	U.S. Courthouse	
Arkansas	Room 7C42	
Louisiana	1100 Commerce St.	
New Mexico	Dallas, Tex. 75202	
Oklahoma	214-749-2308	
Texas		
Region VII	**Neal A. Johnson**	
	Federal Office Bldg.	
	Room 2509	
Iowa	911 Walnut St.	
Kansas	Kansas City, Mo. 64106	
Missouri	816-374-5481	
Nebraska		
Region VIII	**Ernest E. Sanchez**	
	Room 16408	
	Federal Bldg.	
Colorado	1961 Stout St.	
Montana	Denver, Co. 80202	
North Dakota	303-837-4234	
South Dakota		
Utah		
Wyoming		
Region IX	**Tor Torland**	
	Room 10007	
	Federal Bldg.	
Arizona	450 Golden Gate Ave.	
California	San Francisco, Calif. 94102	
Hawaii	415-556-3423	
Nevada		
Region X	**Ernest Hood**	
	Arcade Plaza	
	Room 2034	
Alaska	1321 Second Ave.	
Idaho	Seattle, Wash. 98101	
Oregon	296-442-7620	
Washington		

PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL WOULD
PROTECT WORKERS, BRENNAN SAYS

WASHINGTON -- The proposed National Employment Assistance Act would help President Ford fulfill his pledge of cushioning the impact of inflation fighting measures on the workforce, Secretary of Labor Peter J. Brennan said.

Brennan told a joint meeting of the Senate Subcommittee on Employment, Poverty, and Migratory Labor and the House Select Subcommittee on Labor the day after the President's address to Congress:

"The President has said repeatedly that his policies while stringent in economic terms would be compassionate in human terms: that he would not let the impact of inflation control measures fall disproportionately on those Americans least able to bear the costs.

"The National Employment Assistance Act of 1974 would implement those pledges by authorizing, through Dec. 31, 1975, two programs which would begin to operate in local areas with the heaviest unemployment should the national unemployment rate average 6 percent for more than three months."

Brennan said the two programs would be:

-- A temporary program of income replacement, known as the Special Unemployment Assistance Program, for experienced unemployed workers in areas of high unemployment who have exhausted all other unemployment compensation or who are not now eligible for such compensation, and

-- A program of employment projects for these same areas, known as the Community Improvement Program.

Brennan said:

"We already have in place unemployment insurance programs which provide benefits now and in the future for persons who may be unemployed. Should additional covered workers become unemployed, they would, of course, qualify for these basic benefits.

"In addition, under the actions which the President took three weeks ago, over $1 billion of public service employment funding has been released

(More)

under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, providing 170,000 public service jobs.

"The Administration believes," Brennan said, "that there is a need for Federal standby authority with minimal inflationary impact, which will help alleviate the impact of unemployment should unemployment rates rise further as a result of economic conditions."

Funds for both the Special Unemployment Assistance Program and the Community Improvement Program become available when the national unemployment rate averages 6.0 percent or more for 3 consecutive months. For the Special Unemployment Assistance Program, such funds as are necessary are authorized for use if unemployment is above this level.

For the Community Improvement Program, successive increments of funds are authorized if the national unemployment level averages, for 3 consecutive months:

-- 6.0 percent -- $500 million dollars authorized;

-- 6.5 percent -- another $750 million dollars authorized; and

-- 7.0 percent -- an additional one billion dollars authorized.

# # #

EMPLOYEE SELECTION REGULATIONS BY FEDERAL CONTRACTORS EXPLAINED IN NEW PUBLICATION

WASHINGTON -- What is a job test?

This and 51 other questions are dealt with in a new Labor Department pamphlet, "Questions and Answers on the OFCC Testing and Selection Order."

The Testing and Selection Order, issued in October 1971, and amended in January 1974, applies to some quarter of a million federal and federally assisted contractors and subcontractors.

As far as the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance (OFCC) is concerned, a job test is any formal, scored, quantified or standardized assessment procedure used by an employer in evaluating job applicants and employees, even personal history and background requirements.

Under the OFCC Testing and Selection Order, covered contractors must have evidence that their employee selection procedures do not adversely affect the opportunities of women or minority persons for hire, transfer, promotion, training or retention.

"The new pamphlet should be a great help to contractors in understanding our regulations," said OFCC Director Philip J. Davis. "With it these employers can more easily correct any testing and selection deficiencies they might find".

Davis said the OFCC is also working with the Equal Employment Opportunity Coordinating Council to develop uniform government-wide testing and selection guidelines. These guidelines will assure greater consistency in the assessment of such procedures by the various federal agencies with authority in the equal employment opportunity area.

(MORE)

The Testing and Selection Order was issued to help enforce Executive Order 11246, as amended, which prohibits federal and federally assisted contractors and subcontractors from discriminating because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin and which requires affirmative action to ensure equal employment opportunity.

For a single copy of the pamphlet, contact Office of Information, Employment Standards Administration, Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20210.

# # #

MINIMUM WAGE COVERAGE OF DOMESTIC WORKERS

WASHINGTON--Wage-hour regulations affecting more than 1.5 million domestic service workers and defining casual babysitters have been proposed by the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor.

The regulations clarify the 1974 amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) which entitle domestic workers to the $1.90 an hour minimum wage and time-and-a-half for overtime.

Bernard E. DeLury, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment Standards, said, "The new regulations will help numerous employers determine whether their domestic help is entitled to minimum wage and overtime pay."

The proposed regulations, published October 1 in the Federal Register, state that workers who perform household services in or about the permanent or temporary private home of their employer -- and who do not live with the employer -- are entitled to $1.90 an hour and overtime pay. Examples of covered employees included cooks, waiters, butlers, maids; housekeepers, governesses, gardeners, and caretakers.

However, to be covered under the FLSA these workers must receive at least $50 a calendar quarter or be employed by one or more employers for more than eight hours in any workweek.

Also entitled to minimum wage and overtime pay are babysitters who work other than on a casual basis. Such covered employees are those who babysit on a regular and recurring basis and who engage in such activities for more than 20 hours a week. Babysitters are also covered--even if employed for fewer hours--if they spend more than 20 percent of their time doing household work while babysitting.

The minimum wage, but not overtime, must be paid to domestic workers who reside in the employer's household.

Covered workers must receive at least $1.90 an hour, to be raised to at least $2.00 an hour beginning January 1975, $2.20 beginning January 1976, and $2.30 beginning January 1977.

To meet FLSA wage requirements, employers may take credit for the reasonable cost or fair value of food, lodging and other customarily provided facilities such as drugs, cosmetics and dry cleaning.

The proposed regulations require that employers maintain work records for each covered domestic employee and keep them at least three years. These records must contain the following:

--the worker's name, social security number, and address;

--total weekly hours the employee works for the employer;

--total weekly wages the employer pays the worker;

--weekly amounts the employer claims for board, lodging, and other facilities;

--the amount of overtime pay, if any, the worker receives.

Under the FLSA the following are exempt from minimum wage and overtime coverage:

--casual babysitters (i.e., those who perform babysitting services on a irregular or intermittent basis and who do not work more than 20 hours a week for one or more employers and who spend less than 20 percent of their time on general household work.)

--companions to the elderly or infirm, (provided that any general household work they do does not exceed 20 percent of the total weekly hours worked or eight hours a week, whichever is less.)

A babysitter who cares for a child in the babysitter's home is not considered a domestic service worker under the act and the wage provisions accordingly do not apply in such a situation.

Interested persons have until November 4, to submit written comments, suggestions, data, or arguments on the proposed regulations. Address comments to Betty Southard Murphy, Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20210.

# # #

OSHA PROPOSES SAFETY, HEALTH
RULES FOR JOB-RELATED HOUSING

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Labor has proposed revised rules on safety and health that would apply to housing furnished employees by employers as a condition of employment.

Currently, two agencies of the Department -- the Manpower Administration and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) -- enforce housing standards. Manpower Administration standards differ from OSHA's and apply on a pre-occupancy basis to housing for agricultural workers recruited by employers through the Manpower Administration.

OSHA standards, however, apply to all employment covered under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, whenever housing is furnished by the employer as a condition of employment.

Assistant Secretary of Labor John H. Stender, who heads OSHA, said both agencies have long recognized this overlap and have followed the policy of considering employer compliance with either OSHA or Manpower Administration rules as being in compliance with OSHA requirements.

Stender said the Manpower Administration is expected to propose a revision of its rules to conform with OSHA's final standard.

"This will avoid the undue and unnecessary burden of continuing to require employers to become familiar with and comply with two sets of standards that differ in some respects," he said.

# # #

Week of October 21, 1974

DEMAND HIGH FOR PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANTS

WASHINGTON -- Job opportunities for physician's assistants are currently plentiful, but competition to get into training programs is keen as applications for admission outnumber available training slots.

These are among findings of a recent survey of physician's assistant training programs conducted by Dr. Alex Kacen of Rice University.

On the basis of information gathered from 36 training programs, Dr. Kacen reports that graduating physician's assistants--paraprofessional workers who assist primary care physicians by taking over many routine tasks generally done only by doctors--have been readily able to find jobs in both urban and rural areas.

Furthermore, the report states, salaries for beginners are good--typically $10,000 to $15,000 a year. Most training programs, however, accept only 10 to 35 students for each class; in 30 of the 36 programs surveyed, applicants outnumbered training slots by at least five to one.

The results of Dr. Kacen's survey appear in an article, "Examining Job Prospects and Training for Physicians's Assistants," in the fall 1974 issue of the Occupational Outlook Quarterly, a career information magazine published by the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The OOQ article also contains other findings on admission requirements for training programs, pay and working conditions in this new health care occupation, and factors which may affect long-range employment prospects. A list of training programs, with directors' names and addresses, is also included.

(MORE)

Other articles in the latest Occupational Outlook Quarterly examine the nature of the work, pay, educational and training requirements, and future job prospects in various occupations.

--"Goods Well Bought Are Quickly Sold" describes the work of buyers and merchandise managers.

--"Collection Worker: A Creditable Career" reports that employment of bill collectors is expected to grow moderately through 1985.

--"Dining Room Attendants and Dishwashers" describes two occupations in which opportunites for part-time work are very good.

Other jobs offering plentiful part-time job opportunites are listed in "Guide to Part-Time Work." Another OOQ article describes the provisions of the recently amended Fair Labor Standards Act, while "High School and College Credit by Exam" tells how high school dropouts and persons unable to go to college can earn educational credentials by taking special examinations.

The Occupational Outlook Quarterly is published four times during the school year. It is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402. Price is $4.30 for a 1-year subscription or $1.15 an issue. (Make checks or money orders payable to Superintendent of Documents.)

# # #

5,339 JOB SAFETY, HEALTH INSPECTIONS BY FEDERAL AGENCY IN JULY

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) conducted 5,339 inspections during July.

This brings to more than 160,000 the total number of job safety and health inspections conducted by OSHA during its three-year existence.

Assistant Secretary of Labor John H. Stender, who heads the agency, said that in July 1974, OSHA issued to employers 3,562 citations alleging 18,152 violations of job safety and health standards. Proposed penalties totaled $505,265.

From its inception April 28, 1971, through July 1974 OSHA made 164,852 inspections, resulting in 110,058 citations alleging 567,193 violations, with proposed penalties totaling $14,203,458. Of that amount, $10,445,845 has been remitted to the Secretary of the Treasury. The balance represents funds not yet collected, plus penalties proposed by OSHA that were reduced or vacated by order of the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission after employer appeals.

# # #

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX--SEPTEMBER 1974

WASHINGTON -- The Wholesale Price Index for All Commodities showed little change from August to September, it was announced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

Before seasonal adjustment, the index declined 0.1 percent and, after seasonal adjustment, it rose 0.1 percent.

The Wholesale Price Index for All Commodities decreased 0.1 percent from August to September as substantial declines for farm products and processed foods and feeds more than offset the effects of price increases for industrial commodities.

The index for farm products dropped 3.4 percent, chiefly because of lower prices for livestock, grains, and oilseeds; processed foods and feeds moved down 1.6 percent almost entirely as a result of decreases for manufactured animal feeds. Meats and fats and oils also were lower but all other major categories of food increased.

The index for industrial commodites rose 0.8 percent with machinery, chemicals, metals, and furniture and household durables accounting for most of the upward movement.

On a stage of processing basis, consumer finished goods, a selection of food and nonfood commodities similar to those in the commodity component of the Consumer Price Index moved up 0.7 percent. Producer finished goods rose 1.9 percent.

Of the 15 major commodity groups measured by the Wholesale Price Index, 10 increased from August to September, and 5 were lower.

(MORE)

In September, the All Commodites WPI was 167.2 (1967=100), 19.7 percent above a year earlier. The industrial commodities index was 27.9 percent higher than in September 1973; the index for farm products was down 8.8 percent over the same period, but that for processed foods and feeds was up 13.1 percent.

On a seasonallly adjusted basis, the Wholesale Price Index for All Commodities rose 0.1 percent in September, following an increase of 3.7 percent in July and 3.9 percent in August.

The industrial commodities index rose 1.0 percent, less than in recent months. The index for farm products and processed foods and feeds declined 1.9 percent, following advances in July and August.

Over the calendar quarter ended in September, the WPI increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 35.2 percent. This was up from the second quarter rate of 12.2 percent and the first quarter rate of 24.5 percent.

The index for farm products and processed foods and feeds rose sharply in the third quarter following a substantial decline in the second quarter.

The index for industrial commodities rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 28.3 percent compared with annual rates of 32.3 in the first quarter and 35.7 percent in the second.

On a stage of processing basis, finished goods increased 1.1 percent (after seasonal adjustment) from August to September. Consumer finished goods were up 0.8 percent. Producer finished goods rose 2.1 percent.

(MORE)

Prices of consumer foods edged down 0.3 percent in September, following 2 months of rising prices, while prices of consumer nonfood finished goods continued to rise. Consumer nonfood finished goods were up 1.2 percent over the month.

Gasoline footwear, apparel, and beverages were responsible for most of the 0.7 percent advance for nondurables. Prices of consumer durables moved up 1.6 percent, primarily because passenger car prices did not decline as they normally do in September. Household appliances and household furniture were higher.

The increase for producer finished goods was due primarily to continued widespread price rises for machinery and equipment. However, the increase was less than in August. Prices of metal commercial furniture and aircraft also were up.

The index of intermediate materials, supplies, and components (excluding foods and feeds) rose 0.8 percent in September. The increase was considerably less than in the recent months.

Crude materials for further processing (excluding foods, feeds, and fibers) were unchanged on average in September. Quotations were lower for nonferrous scrap metals. Prices rose for bituminous coal and natural gas.

# # #

Dear Consumer

How To Talk To Builders

By Virginia Knauer
Special Assistant to the President
and Director
Office of Consumer Affairs
Department of Health, Education and Welfare

If you have ever had building or repair work done on your home, you probably know that contractors, carpenters, masons, electricians and plumbers speak a language all their own.

To help you "talk their language," I have prepared—in cooperation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)—this list of common terms.

AIR DUCTS — Rectangular pipes carrying warm air and cold air through house from and to furnace or air conditioner.

BEAM—One of the principal horizontal wood or steel sections of a building, used to give support.

BIB—Water faucet to which a hose may be attached.

CASING—Door and window framing.

CHASE—Groove in masonry wall or through floor to accommodate pipes or ducts.

CORNICE—Horizontal projection at the top of a wall or under the underhanging part of the roof.

DORMER—Projecting frame of recess in sloping roof.

DRIP—Projecting part of a cornice; sheds rain water.

FLASHING — Noncorrosive metal used around angles or junctions in roofs and walls to prevent leaks.

FRAMING—Rough lumber of a house—such as rafters and beams.

GIRDER—Main section of a framed floor—it carries the weight of a floor or partition.

GUSSET—Brace or bracket used to strengthen.

HIP—External angle formed by the joining of two slopes of a roof.

JAMB—Upright piece of lumber; lines opening for door or window.

POINTING — Treatment of joints by filling with mortar to improve the appearance or protect against the weather.

RAFTER—One of a series of structural roof sections; spans from exterior wall to center ridge.

STUDS—In wall framing, the vertical sections to which horizontal pieces are nailed. Studs are spaced 16 or 24 inches apart.

TRAP—Bend in a water pipe to hold water so sewer gases will not escape from the plumbing system into the house.

VALLEY—Depression at the meeting point of two roof slopes.

VENT—Pipe which allows gas to escape from plumbing systems.

For more terms used in building and home repair, you may want to order HUD's free booklet **The Homeowner's Glossary of Building Terms** by writing to Consumer Information Center, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

According to economists in the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, finding a good job doesn't just happen; it must be planned for.

* * *

The U.S. Department of Labor expects the number of college graduates to increase by one-half between 1972 and 1985.

* * *

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Outlook Handbook says college graduates are likely to face stiff competition against workers with vocational training for paraprofessional and technical jobs.

* * *

Economists in the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics expect the number of students completing vocational training in paraprofessional and technical areas to increase even more rapidly than the number of college graduates.

* * *

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts 60 million jobs will open up between 1972 and 1985.

* * *